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STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1950

Including the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

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STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman :

C. H. HODGSON, Esq.

Vice-Chairman :

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Members of the Council :

Mr. A. W. Carradine.
Mr. W. A. Coley.
Mr. O. W. Congrave.
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Dr. R. S. MacArthur.
Mr. J. Millican.
Mrs. A. Pratt.
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Mr. R. G. Ready.
Mr. E. A. Robinson.
Mr. H. E. Rose.
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Mr. A. Waldron.

Public Health Officers of the Council.

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. R. W. Markham, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

Mr. L. H. Poole, M.I.Mun.E., C.R.S.I.

Public Health Clerk :

Mrs. K. M. Yarnold.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Urban District for the year, 1950.

In accordance with the procedure adopted last year, at the direction of the Ministry of Health, the Report is divided into the following sections :—

"A" Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.
"B" General Provision of Health Services for the Area.
"C" Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.
"D" Housing.
"E" Inspection and Supervision of Food.
"F" Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

MAIN OCCUPATIONS OF THE AREA.

The principal industries comprise the manufacture of carpets, ceramic insulators, blackplate and bright strip, cast iron hinges and holloware, chains for many purposes, steel wire braid and tape, wire cables, fans, forges, furnaces, woodwork, valves and valve accessories, and old-established vinegar works, and several firms engaged in the storage and distribution of petrol and oil. In addition, there is one of the largest power stations in the Midlands.

SECTION "A"

Area (in acres)	3,204
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1950) according to Rate Books	2,806
Rateable Value	£48,777
Sum represented by one Penny Rate	£194
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (Mid. 1950)	10,050

Live Births

	Male	*Female*	*Totals* **1950**	*Totals* **1949**
Legitimate	86	104	190	185
Illegitimate	4	6	10	9
	90	110	200	194

The Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population of the Urban District was	20.5	20.0
The Birth Rate for England and Wales for the same period was	15.8	16.7

Still Births.

	Male	*Female*	*Totals* 1950	1949
Legitimate	3	3	6	2
Illegitimate	–	–	–	1
	3	3	6	3

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 civilian population was	0.59	0.31
The Still Birth rate per 1,000 civilian population for England and Wales for the same period was	0.37	0.39

Deaths.

Male	*Female*	**1950**	**1949**
46	46	92	117

The Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population was	9.1	12.1
The Death Rate for the whole of England and Wales per 1,000 population was	11.6	11.7
Maternity Mortality Rate for the year per 1,000 births (Live and Still) was	Nil	Nil
Maternity Mortality Rate in England and Wales for the same period was	0.86	0 .98

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

	Male	*Female*	**1950**	**1949**
Legitimate	2	2	4	7
Illegitimate	–	1	1	–
	2	3	5	7

The Infant Mortality rate for the year was ...	30.0	36.1
The Infant Mortality rate for the same period for England and Wales was	29.8	32.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	22	26
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	–	–
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	–	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	–	1

Causes of Death (including Transferable Deaths).

Ref. No.	*Males*	*Females*
1—Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	2
7—Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1
10—Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2
11—Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	3	–
12—Malignant neoplasm, breast	–	2
14—Other malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms	5	8
15—Leukaemia, aleukaemia	–	1

16—Diabetes	–	1
17—Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	3	6
18—Coronary disease, angina...	4	1
19—Hypertension with heart disease ...	2	–
20—Other heart disease	6	5
22—Influenza	–	1
23—Pneumonia	2	1
24—Bronchitis	3	3
25—Other diseases of respiratory system ...	–	1
28—Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1
29—Hyperplasia of prostate	1	–
31—Congenital malformations	1	1
32—Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	7	8
33—Motor vehicle accidents	1	–
34—All other accidents	1	–
35—Suicide	–	1
36—Homicide and operations of war ...	1	–

SECTION "B"

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

Laboratory Services. The examination of food, milk and water is undertaken by the County Laboratory, Worcester. All the remaining bacteriological and pathogical work is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Services. This service is administered by the County Council as Local Health Authority, and based in Kidderminster. An ambulance for infectious cases is stationed at Hayley Green Isolation Hospital (under the control of the Regional Hospital Board).

Hospitals.

All hospitals are administered by the Midland Regional Hospital Board, through their Management Committees.

The Kidderminster General Hospital receives the majority of hospital patients from this district.

The Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital provides the district and surrounding areas with maternity beds.

Cases admitted during the year (including 40 re-admissions)	444
Women delivered (plus 5 born before arrival) ...	352
Infants born alive	347
Infants Deaths	5
Infants stillborn	7
Maternal deaths	1
Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia	4
Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil

Infectious Diseases. Beds for Infectious Diseases are provided at the Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen. Two cases of infectious disease from Stourport Urban district were admitted during the year.

Tuberculosis. Outpatient treatment is provided at the Kidderminster Hospital Dispensary, where Dr. Cronin attends on Tuesday evenings and Thursday afternoons. In-patient treatment is arranged at Knightwick Sanatorium and at the new St. Wulstan's Sanatorium, Malvern, which was opened during the year. Prevention and After-care remain the responsibility of the Local Health Authority, and the service is administered locally by the After-care Sub-Committee of the Divisional Area Health Committee.

Venereal Diseases. Treatment and " follow-up " are carried out at the following :—

Kidderminster and District General Hospital.
Worcester Royal Infirmary.
Other neighbouring hospitals as required.

Nursing in the Home. This service is administered by the Local Health Authority. There are:

(*i*) Two Nurses who deal principally with Midwifery and General Nursing. A car is provided.

(*ii*) A whole time Health Visitor and School Nurse who attends school medical inspections, treats minor ailments at the School clinic, and visits cases of mental defect. She visits infants and children in the home and is responsible for their welfare from 14 days until they attend school at 5 years, when they continue under the school scheme. She attends all Infant Welfare Clinics in this District.

(*iii*) A whole time Health Visitor who visits cases of Tuberculosis.

Clinics. Stourport.—An Ante-Natal Clinic is held every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon at the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Home, in charge of Dr. MacArthur, Dr. Mackie, Dr. Winter, Dr. Black, and Matron respectively.

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held on the first and third Friday in each month at the Lucy Baldwin Clinic. Children under five are immunised against diphtheria at this Clinic, and vaccination is carried out as required.

Areley Kings.—An Infant Welfare Centre, in charge of Dr. Winter, is held in the Parish Hall, Areley Kings, on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons.

SECTION "C"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The majority of dwelling houses in the area are supplied with water from the Council's mains. The source of this supply is Mount Pleasant, Bewdley. There is ample for the needs of the area and mains extensions have been laid to meet the needs of housing development at " The Ridgeway," Park Top.

Samples taken regularly, in conjunction with Borough of Bewdley, for chemical and bacteriological analyses have given satisfactory results. The water was found to be satisfactory, both in quantity and quality, and there is no plumbo-solvent action. There are 2,581 dwelling houses connected to the town water mains, affording a supply for some 9,290 persons. In addition, approximately 225 dwelling houses obtain their supply from wells catering for about 776 persons.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year, the disposal of sewage was satisfactorily dealt with at the Oldington Sewage Disposal Works, used jointly with the Boroughs of Kidderminster and Bewdley. With the exception of certain outlying properties and the Titton district, the whole of the area is provided with main drainage.

I am glad to be able to report that the re-building and conversion of the sanitary accommodation to the water carriage system has now been completed satisfactorily and connected to the sewer.

In both Areley Kings and Wilden areas there are a small number of properties not yet converted to Water Carriage System or connected to the sewer. Every effort is being made to have this work carried out.

No further conversions or connections to the sewer were undertaken during the year.

SECTION "D"

Housing.

This has been a most unfortunate year, during which no permanent Council houses were completed. It is hoped the factors causing this season's delay have now been overcome and will not be allowed to interfere in the future.

17 Houses were completed by private enterprise during the year.

The Housing Manager gives the following figures for the end of the year 1950.

Number of Council Houses in the District ...	654
Number of Houses requisitioned by the Council ...	Nil
Number of Applicants for Council Houses	437
Number of above Applicants who are living in lodgings	263
Approximate total number of persons represented by application list	1736

With regard to houses considered unfit for human habitation still remaining in the district, seven Demolition Orders have been made, and no Undertakings given during the year.

Burlish Estate.

On this temporary estate 54 bungalow conversions were occupied during the year.

Though it has not been possible to provide a bath, authority has been given to supply each bungalow with an electric wash boiler for use in the utility room. This has proved a great help to the tenants, especially to Mothers with young toddlers, but the free-standing cookers remain a serious source of danger to young children.

Titton and Walshes Farm Shack Areas

The problem presented by these areas shows little change. though a few families were moved to Burlish. A solution is being sought through compulsory purchase of the sites, gradual resettlement of the occupants, and the use of this land for industrial and other suitable purposes.

SECTION "E"

Inspection and Supervision of Food :

Ice Cream Manufacture.

The number of manufacturers of Ice Cream on the Register is 4, and the number of retailers of Ice Cream, 16. They have continued satisfactorily under supervision by the Health Department.

Adulteration of Foods :

Mr. Spencer, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, Worcestershire County Council, reports that 100 samples of Milk, 26 samples of other foods, and 12 samples of drugs were taken for analysis during the year. Of these, three drugs, one mustard and 18 milk samples were found to be unsatisfactory.

Food Poisoning.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children immunised for the first time during the year, either at Clinics, Schools, or by the General Practitioners, was as follows :—

1.	Pre-School Children	133
2.	School Children	7
3.	Re-inforcing doses	61
		201

At the end of 1950 the percentage figures of immunised children estimated in the two age groups of 0—5 and 5—14 years were 50.2 and 89.3 respectively.

Poliomyelitis.

It was most unfortunate that, owing to the prevalence of Poliomyelitis during the summer and autumn months, it was thought advisable to stop all forms of inoculation as a precaution. It has been observed that any form of minor injury to muscle in a person **already incubating** the disease, may lead to paralysis occurring first at this site. The delay and misleading publicity given to this matter in the National Press proved a serious handicap in our efforts to obtain maximum protection among infants and children.

Two cases of this disease occurred in the district and one of the patients (a 26 year old woman) died whilst being placed in an ambulance for removal to Hayley Green Hospital. The other patient (an 8 year old boy), has made a good recovery.

General.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year are shown on the folowing table:

Diseases	*Total Cases notified*	*Cases admitted to Hospital*	*Total Deaths*
Erysipelas	2	–	–
Scarletina	2	–	–
Scarlet Fever	2	–	–
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	2	1	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...	4	–	–
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia ...	2	–	–
Measles	115	1	–
Whooping Cough ...	123	–	–
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	5	–	–

It will be noted that the incidence of measles and whooping cough has remained high during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		*Non. Pulmonary*		*Pulmonary*		*Non-Pulmonary*	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
15	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
25	–	3	–	1	–	–	–	–
35	2	1	–	–	–	1	–	–
45	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
55	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
65 and over	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
TOTALS	4	5	–	1	1	1	–	–

Mass Radiography Unit.

During the month of November, the above Unit operated at Stour Bank House, Stourport-on-Severn, and the total attendance for Miniature Films was 1,852. Later, 112 attended for large films to be taken, 11 of these being referred to the Tuberculosis Clinic in Kidderminster. In addition to this, 10 patients were referred to their own Doctors for other conditions found during the course of the survey, most of these requiring observation only.

As a result of this radiological survey, the following cases were ascertained:

3 cases Pneumo Coniosis with Tuberculosis (Males)

2 Cases Active Primary Tuberculosis (Males)

4 Cases Active Post Primary Tuberculosis (1 Male, 3 Female)

Treatment has been, and is being arranged, as necessary.

Conclusion.

The problem of adequate housing remains as serious as ever, and the Council will be most anxious to ensure that no further delays of such a serious nature occur in the future. It cannot be emphasised too strongly that so very many domestic troubles start from the lack of a proper house and all that is involved in living at close quarters or under unsatisfactory conditions.

I should like to thank the Chairman, all Members of the Council, and the Council's Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. MARKHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1950.

THE COUNCIL HOUSE,
STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I respectfully beg to present my Annual Report of certain work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1950.

Water Supply.

The bulk supply of water purchased from Bewdley Corporation has been entirely satisfactory, both as regards quantity and quality. It is pleasing to record that it was again not found necessary to curtail the supply in any way.

Inspections and Notices.

During the year routine inspections and re-inspections were made of houses, and other premises, under the various Acts, Regulations and Byelaws for housing purposes, abatement of nuisances and in connection with infectious diseases, etc. No legal proceedings were taken in regard to the abatement of nuisances.

Rodent Control.

Further attention was given to this subject during the year. Only infestations of a minor character were observed and these were dealt with by baiting and trapping. The Council's Refuse Tip and Sewage Pumping Station were also dealt with.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

Particulars of the various infectious diseases notified during the year are given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health. Inspections were made and disinfectant supplied in certain cases.

Three cases of bug-infested houses were dealt with.

Refuse Scavenging.

The collection and disposal of refuse and night-soil was carried out regularly by direct labour. The refuse continues to be disposed of by tipping.

Offensive Trades.

No offensive trades were started during the year.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses in this District.

Food Inspection.

This matter has again received attention during the year. A considerable quantity of tinned food was examined, surrendered and destroyed.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

LEWIS H. POOLE,

Sanitary Inspector.

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